

something. And so what we did was the concern was taking clients away from mental health centers and moving them over to this private practice or doing something in conflict with the mental health center activity. And so, in talking with Senator Peterson, we thought we would make sure that that was prohibited and we went along with this committee amendment so that we allowed the private practice but it couldn't conflict with the mental health activities that they had and also couldn't direct clients away from the mental health centers. So I would ask your support for the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson and then Senator Peterson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I would like to be able to support this measure and I would like just to make certain that I fully understand what the intent is, Senator Peterson, on the measure, my mother happens to have been a member of the Mental Health Board out in your area and, in fact, had told me last year, I think, that there some people in the Norfolk area that wanted a measure that would, in effect, eliminate the existing Director, apparently, of Mental Health Services. Is that still the basic thrust of this issue?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Peterson.

SENATOR PETERSON: Senator Vard Johnson, what you are saying is to eliminate the administrator up at...

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes.

SENATOR PETERSON: ...the Mental Health Center? No, it is not to eliminate him but to state merely what Senator Wesely said... shows if he or anybody else in the mental health can have a private practice but not use those people that go through that Mental Health Center to funnel them over, those that have got the money to that center or to the private practice and then the state pick up the rest.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Sounds fair and reasonable. I will support it. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Peterson, did you wish to speak on the bill?